Shoujo Sense
嘘解きレトリック
Usotoki Rhetoric
by Miyako Ritsu
3
都戸利津
Chapter 12
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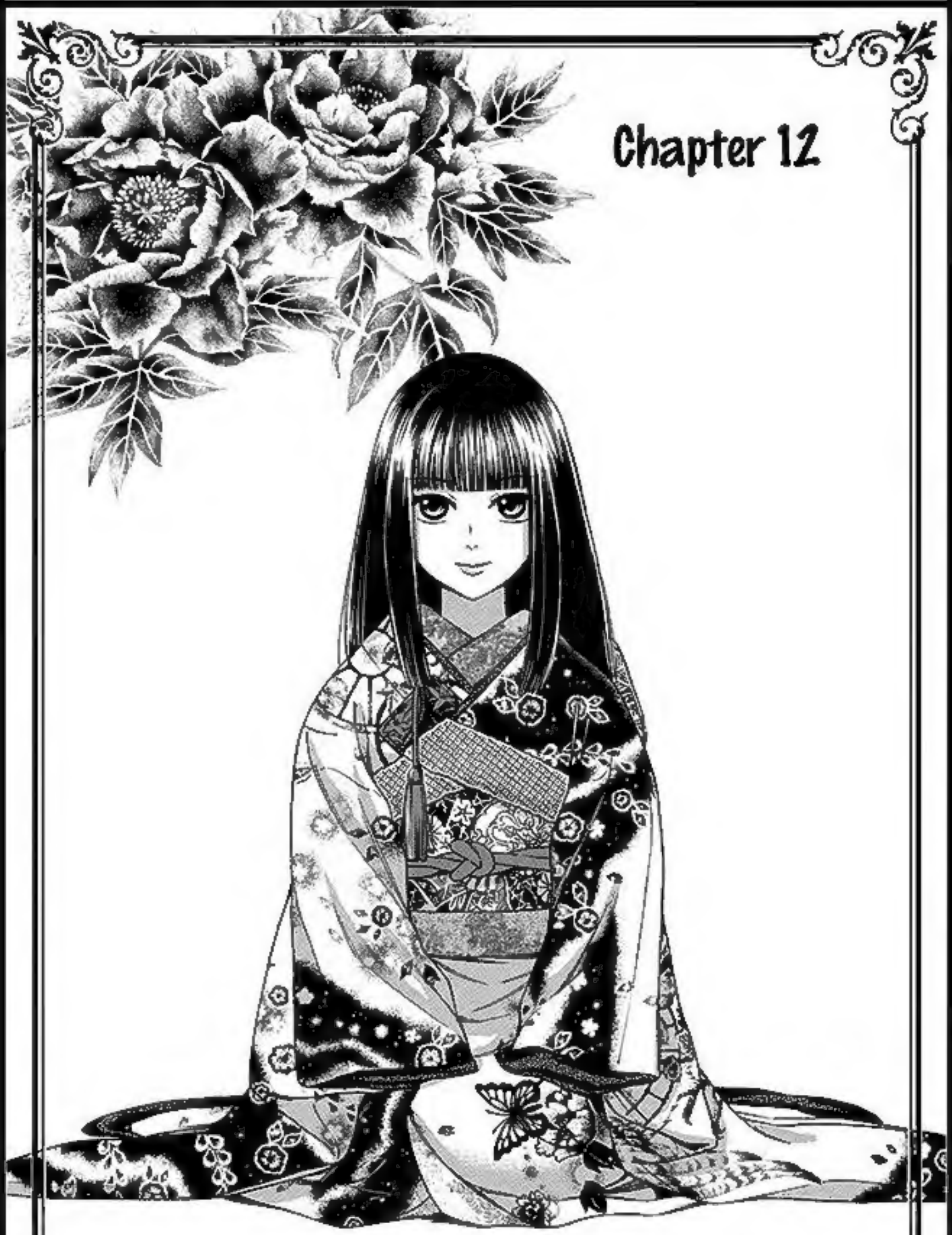
Chapter 12



It wasn't just a doll that fell.

Someone actually died.

And was Ine-san killed...?

That means,

"No one died in this house."

"And Ine-san's case was probably a suicide or an accident."

Shinako-san lied.

MISS, YOUR BATH IS READY.

THANK YOU FOR THE MEAL.

WELL THEN,

I'M GOING BACK TO MY HOUSE.

SFX: SLIP

THANK YOU!

OH, A BATH!

HM? SO SOON?

I THOUGHT YOU TOOK YOUR BATHS HERE IN THE MAIN HOUSE?

I KNEW GUESTS WERE COMING, SO I TOOK MY BATH EARLIER TODAY.

When I heard the lie,

SEE YOU AGAIN AT BREAK-FAST.

SFX: BOW

GOOD NIGHT.

signal the detective.

I wasn't able to

I'll go ahead with the bath.

AMAZING~ AMAZING~

What should I do?

AND A BATH~~~

SFX:ROLL 3X

"Maybe there are things I can see precisely because I can't detect lies?"

I have to tell the detective.

There are things I can't figure out if I can detect lies.

A MONTH'S RENT PAID FOR AND GOOD FOOD~

KANOKO-KUN,

I have to tell him. But...

YOU DON'T HAVE TO TELL ME IF YOU DON'T WANT TO.

I FIGURED IT OUT.

Hmmm

"INE-SAN'S CASE WAS PROBABLY A SUICIDE OR AN ACCIDENT" WERE LIES, RIGHT?

"NO ONE DIED IN THIS HOUSE" AND

was so obvious.

I

A BAD ONE?

IS SHINAKO-SAN'S LIE,

THAT MEANS SHINAKO-SAN IS HIDING SOMETHING, RIGHT?

A BAD LIE?

What?

YEAH, APPAR-ENTLY SO.

Like the man who tried to kill Taro-chan,

or that woman who tried to steal.

I can't remember.

There's no child here.

AND ENDS UP HURTING PEOPLE.

A LIE MEANT TO HIDE SOMETHING TERRI-BLE,

"There's no reason to disappoint him."

Like how the detective lied to Hanasaki-san.

Or the lie Riichi-san told Yaiko-chan to cheer her up.

"This is from your mom, Yaiko."

FOR SOMEONE ELSE.

A LIE TOLD ONLY OUT OF CONCERN

SO IS THERE A "GOOD LIE"?

WE'D HAVE TO EXPOSE HER, RIGHT?

IF SHINAKO-SAN TOLD A BAD LIE,

We're just here to carry bags for Hanasaki.

WE'RE NOT THE POLICE.

AND NO ONE ASKED US TO SOLVE THIS CASE.

IN OTHER WORDS,

I DON'T THINK WE HAVE TO.

NO?

THA-THAT'S NOT RIGHT!!

SOME-ONE DIED!!

Wha was that nod!

EHHH~~ BUT...

nod

WE'LL GET OUR PAY EVEN IF WE DON'T EXPOSE HER.

"I'm going to protect it" "even if they think it's creepy."

I... HAD TO ENDURE RUMORS ON MY OWN.

SO I WANT TO HELP SHINAKO-SAN.

BUT IF

YOU DON'T WANT TO EXPOSE HER, RIGHT?

IF WE REVEAL WHAT SHE'S HIDING,

IT'S GOING TO BE BAD FOR SHINAKO-SAN.

That's right.

I wasn't able to give him the signal.

IF YOU WANNA EXPOSE THE LIE,

THEN DO IT. IF NOT, THEN DON'T!

WERE YOU LISTENING?

WHAT SHOULD WE DO?

SHINAKO-SAN'S LIE WAS MEANT TO HURT SOME-ONE...

Is it really okay not to tell?

YOU SAID THERE ARE GOOD LIES AND BAD LIES.

THAT WAS MY ANSWER!

"I told her it was a keepsake from her mother."

WOULD RIICHI-SAN'S LIE BE GOOD OR BAD?

WHAT IF THAT MIRROR'S OWNER WAS ACTUALLY LOOKING FOR IT AND SAID THAT IT WAS IMPORTANT TO THEM?

RIICHI-SAN FOUND A MIRROR AND GAVE IT TO HIS LITTLE SISTER.

SO, WHAT KIND OF A LIE WAS THE ONE ABOUT HER HIDING THE FACT THAT INE-SAN STOLE THE DOLL?

"If I said that it would make Ine-san a thief..."

THAT'S...

BUT WE ONLY SAW HIM AS A MAN WHO STOLE A BAG IN FRONT OF US.

BECAUSE WE BOTH BOARDED THE SAME TRAIN.

EVEN WITH THAT THIEF ON THE TRAIN TODAY.

HE PROBABLY HAD SOME DEEP PROBLEMS IN HIS LIFE TOO.

WHAT'S GOOD OR BAD CHANGES DEPENDING ON YOUR CIRCUMSTANCES AND YOUR PERSPECTIVE.

THAT'S WHY SHINAKO-SAN'S LIE IS BOTHERING YOU.

YOUR OPINION WILL CHANGE EVEN IF YOU HEAR THE SAME LIE.

THEN THINKING OF A WAY TO USE HIM,

OR A MAN SEEING HIM IN THE ACT

WAS A POLICEMAN WANTING TO ENFORCE THE LAW,

IF THE ONE WHO SAW HIM

IT WAS ALSO WHEN YOU LEFT YOUR HOMETOWN,

AND WHEN YOU AGREED TO WORK WITH ME.

AND IT WASN'T JUST WHEN YOU WERE SOLVING CASES.

YOU ALWAYS MADE THE RIGHT DECISION.

Trust my instincts.

WHEN YOU ENCOUNTER A LIE,

YOU HAVE TO BELIEVE IN YOUR INSTINCTS AND ACT ON THEM.

THAT'S WHAT YOU'VE ALWAYS DONE.

THE REASON WHY YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO RIGHT NOW,

IS BECAUSE YOU DON'T KNOW EXACTLY WHAT SHINAKO-SAN IS HIDING

THAT WOULD MAKE HER WANT TO LIE.

I wish we can figure out how to help Shinako-san.

YEAH.

WE HAVE TO DIG FOR MORE INFOR-MATION.

HOW DOES TH S LIE LOOK FROM OUR PERSPEC-TIVE?

If we find out why she lied

"No one died in this house. Ine-san's case was probably a suicide or an accident."

maybe we can come up with the right answer.

Shinako-san's lie isn't one

that is going to hurt people.

I wish

3

■ キャラクター①

九十九荘町の人ではないので、もう出てこないかもしれない人たちについて。

● くぼくん

何かヤマメを推している青年。マイペース。

● しばたさん

話し口調が全て他人事。

GOOD MORNING, SOUMA-KUN.

Morning

YOU'RE UP EARLY. GONNA TAKE PICTURES OF THE DETACHED HOUSE?

Here

It's your job to carry my stuff

YEAH, BUT THE DOORS ARE STILL CLOSED.

SO I WAS PLANNING ON TAKING PICTURES OF THE PERIMETER.

HEY, SOUMA-KUN.

WHAT DO YOU THINK OF THIS CUSTOM THEY HAVE?

Did I oversleep?!

What?! The detective and Miyabi-san aren't here!

YOU MEAN RAISING DOLLS?

THEY SAY IT'S SO SHINAKO-SAN GROWS UP HEALTHY.

BUT I THINK IT'S SOME KIND OF MEMORIAL FOR A DEAD CHILD.

BEFORE I GOT IN THE BATH,

I ASKED THE TWO SERVANTS THERE ABOUT THIS CUSTOM.

Can I ask you something?

THEY TOLD ME THEY ONLY STARTED WORKING AFTER THE PARENTS DIED TWO YEARS AGO,

SO THEY DON'T KNOW MUCH ABOUT IT.

AND WHEN I ASKED IF THERE WERE PEOPLE HERE WHO WERE THERE AT THAT TIME,

THEY SAID THEY ALL WENT BACK TO THE R HOME-TOWNS TO BE REPLACED.

SOUNDS LIKE THEY DIDN'T TALK ABOUT IT MUCH.

REMEMBER WHAT SHIBATA-SAN SAID?

"The staff never stay for very long, because it's horrible."

I'M STARTING TO THINK THAT THEY LEFT NOT BECAUSE IT'S HORRIBLE,

BUT BECAUSE THEY'RE ALL SHORT-TERM HIRES.

OH, AND THIS MANSION

WAS PREVIOUSLY OWNED BY A COUPLE WITH NO HEIR.

SO SHINAKO-SAN'S FATHER, WHO WAS THE NEXT CLOSEST RELATIVE, MOVED HERE FROM FAR AWAY AND INHERITED IT.

Oh, they're here

SO THE AYAOKE FAMILY ISN'T ACTUALLY FROM THIS REGION ORIGINALLY.

SO NO ONE FROM TH S TOWN REALLY KNOWS ABOUT THEIR CUSTOM.

AND THEY NEVER HIRED ANYONE FROM THEIR HOME-TOWN.

SO IN OTHER WORDS,

YOU THINK THE REASON NO ONE KNOWS ABOUT THE CUSTOM OR ITS ORIGINS,

IS BECAUSE THE AYAOKE FAMILY HID IT ON PURPOSE.

BUT WHAT IS IT AND WHY ARE THEY HIDING IT...

IT'S JUST TOO MUCH OF A CO-INCIDENCE OTHER-WISE.

FOR THE AYAOKE FAMILY TO GO THROUGH THOSE LENGTHS..

MUST MEAN THAT THEY'RE HIDING SOME-THING BIG.

WHAT?

NO-THING.

OH.

YOU CAN PULL IT OFF AS LONG AS SHE THINKS YOU'RE TRUST-WORTHY.

BUT I CAN BE BOTH KIND AND SUSPICIOUS, YOU KNOW.

I WAS WONDERING WHY YOU WERE PRETENDING TO BE SO NICE TO SHINAKO

IT'S PRETTY RUDE OF ME, ISN'T IT?

AND I ALSO THOUGHT OF SOMETHING

MIYABI-SAN.

LOOK.

DETECTIVE, MIYABI-SAN.

GOOD MORNING!

KANOKO-CHAN.

WHAT ARE YOU LOOKING AT?

THERE.

CAN YOU SEE IT?

is that

blood...?

THAT'S THE DOLL'S ROOM RIGHT?

WAS THAT THERE LAST NIGHT?

Did something happen to Shinako-san?!

THIS ISN'T GOOD. SHE'S NOT ANSWERING.

SFX BAM BAM

SHI-NAKO-SAN!!

SHI-NAKO-SAN, ARE YOU THERE?

SFX DASH

I'LL BORROW A KEY FROM A SERVANT!

MIYABI-SAN.

LET'S LOOK FOR ANOTHER WAY IN

THE MAIDS PROBABLY DON'T HAVE A KEY.

WHAT?

AT THE VERY LEAST

I THINK THIS HOUSE HAS A SECRET.

JUST AS YOU SAID.

SFX CLATTER

"カ"
た

I DON'T THINK THAT SHINAKO-SAN WILL HAND OVER THE KEY TO JUST ANY-ONE.

SO SHE WENT TO OUR ROOM TO GET HER.

THE MAID COULDN'T DELIVER THE TRAY DIRECTLY BECAUSE SHINAKO-SAN HAD THE KEY

LIKE LAST NIGHT.

I KNOW, BUT...

ESPECIALLY NOT WHEN THERE ARE GUESTS.

AND IF SHE JUST NEEDED TO CALL HER,

SHE DIDN'T HAVE TO BRING THAT HEAVY TRAY WITH HER ALL THE WAY TO OUR ROOM.

clatter

KANOKO-KUN IS ON SHINAKO-SAN'S SIDE

SO IF SOMETHING TERRIBLE HAPPENED TO SHINAKO-SAN,

THAT'S WHY YOU SHOULD'VE TOLD KANOKO-CHAN NOT TO BOTHER. SHE'S WASTING HER TIME.

NO, WE NEED TO LET THE MAIDS KNOW.

clatter

OH, BUT IT'S TOTALLY FINE FOR ME, HUH?

This s closed too

I HAVE ANOTHER FAVOR TO ASK, MIYABI-SAN.

Everything's locked

I WOLLDN'T WANT KANOKO-KUN TO SEE IT.

PLEASE PAY FOR THE DAMAGES.

SFX CRASH

SHINAKO-SAN?!

THIS IS HANA-BAKI!

COULD THEY BE IN THE DOLL'S ROOM?

SHINAKO-SA...

THIS IS

!!

...

!

A DOLL

BUT

THERE'S BLOOD

IS BLOOD

BUT THIS

IT'S HARD TO TELL

BECAUSE IT'S MIXED WITH THE RED FELT AND THE SPILLED FOOD

"She said"

WHERE CLOTHES ARE USUALLY HUNG

THE KIMONO ON THE CLOTHES RACK IS GONE.

"the doll died."

THUMP

"

SFX BADUMP

WHAT?!

IS THERE SOMEONE THERE?!

SHINAKO-SAN?!

WHY DID YOU ENTER THIS ROOM.

WITHOUT PERMISSION?

I SAID NO ONE CAN ENTER OUTSIDE MEALTIME.

SHINAKO-SA...

SHINAKO-SAN...

DETECTIVE!

THAT BLOOD

DETECTIVE!

WHERE ARE YOU?

They're inside.

UM, BUT...

I'M GONNA GO TAKE A LOOK

UM, OVER HERE...

The maids didn't have a key...

Oh no the glass

Miyabi-san's camera is here too.

ARE THOSE THE GUEST'S SHOES?

Miss

You can't just enter

IS THIS SOME PRANK?

The detective, and Miyabi-san

They're here!

Miyabi-san's voice!

Lies.

I WAS PLANNING TO SHOCK YOU WHEN YOU COME FOR THE MORNING INTERVIEW.

?

and Shinako-san.

THIS BLOOD IS FAKE..

FLIP

He's telling me

FLIP

to watch out for lies.

BUT I'M NOT GRANTING INTERVIEWS ANYMORE

TO PEOPLE WHO COME IN WITHOUT PERMISSION

SFX FWOOSH

He's going to draw out more information.

AND SHINAKO-SAN!

I'M SORRY SHINAKO-SAN.

THIS ISN'T FAKE BLO...

He's using that weird voice he has when he's bluffing!!

AH.

YOU PROMISED THE INTERVIEW WOULD BE DURING BREAK-FAST!

MIYABI-SAN, YOU SHOULD APOLOGIZE TOO!!

SOUMA-KUN...?

LET'S GET BACK TO THE MAIN HOUSE RIGHT NOW!

THIS IS THE TRAY

THAT WE BROUGHT HERE LAST NIGHT, ISN'T IT?

YES, I ATE THERE.

Huh?

AT THE MAIN HOUSE LAST NIGHT, RIGHT?!

AND YOU ATE TOGETHER WITH US

HOW CAN YOU WASTE

SUCH DELICIOUS FOOD!!!!!

I'M SORRY.

It's a lie.

SHINAKO-SAN,

But

SFX GAH

YOU TOO KONAKO-KUN

C'MON, BACK TO THE MAIN HOUSE!

OKAY THEN, SEE YOU AT BREAK-FAST!

Why?

Is Shinako san ok

You two get back to work

Ah. We're gonna pay for the broken glass

So what's for breakfast?

WE HAVE A PHONE...

PLEASE CALL THE POLICE RIGHT NOW.

IS THERE A CAR OR PHONE IN THIS HOUSE?

WHERE IS SHINAKO-SAN?

WHAT ON EARTH HAPPENED?

P... POLICE?!

AND GET A DOCTOR AND A CAR.

SHINAKO-SAN IS BADLY HURT.

!

IT DOESN'T MATTER, GO AND GET THE POLICE, A DOCTOR, AND A CAR!

SHE'S HURT ?!

WHAT ON EARTH ...

RIGHT NOW!!

DETECTIVE, SHINAKO-SAN IS HURT?!

Y, YES, RIGHT AWAY!

THE BLOOD IN THE DOLL'S ROOM ISN'T FAKE.

BUT

SOMEONE WHO LOST THAT MUCH BLOOD SHOULDN'T BE ABLE TO WALK AROUND LIKE THAT.

And so was

"The blood is fake. I was planning to shock you when you come for the morning interview."

WE CAME HERE TO DISPEL THOSE CREEPY RUMORS,

SO PLAYING A WEIRD PRANK LIKE THAT DOESN'T MAKE ANY SENSE.

That was definitely

a lie.

that answer.

"at the main house last night, right?"

"And you ate together with us"

THE SHINAKO-SAN FROM YESTER-DAY.

THE ONE WHO'S HURT IS THE OTHER SHINAKO-SAN.

FROM YESTER-DAY...?

Is there another

SO IT'S TRUE...

THERE'S ANOTHER SHINAKO-SAN.

Shinako-san?

THE SHINAKO-SAN WE SAW JUST NOW ISN'T THE SAME SHINAKO-SAN FROM YES-TERDAY.

IT'S A DIFFERENT PERSON.

Chapter 12 / END